

**Kelly revises clearance checks**

White House to put priority on updates, in-depth information. — National, 4A

**Strong opener**

Hogs blast Bison 14-2 at Baum Stadium to start 2018 season. — Sports, 1C

# Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER



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**In the news**

■ **Doris Morrill** of The Villages, Fla., who heard a creaking noise about 1 a.m. and called police to report a prowler, actually heard the first of a half-dozen sinkholes that opened up in her retirement community, displacing seven people in four homes, authorities said.

■ **Michael Jensen**, 36, of Inola, Okla., was charged with child neglect after Rogers County sheriff's deputies said he gave his 12-year-old son, who later suffered minor burns, advice on how to commit suicide by lighting himself on fire.

■ **Tiffany Nowicki**, director of a day care center in Bangor, Maine, said parents will no longer be allowed to carry in food after a tray of cookies dropped off by a parent and placed on a staff room table left two workers feeling drugged and about 10 others with less intense symptoms.

■ **Ryan Robinson**, 36, a Hawaiian man on vacation in London, escaped jail time after pleading guilty to drunkenly confronting and punching two police officers outside Buckingham Palace on Valentine's Day but was ordered to pay each victim about \$280.

■ **Lamar Dill**, 92, and his 95-year-old wife, Mary Nelle, both of Anniston, Ala., will celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary by returning for the first time since getting married in 1949 to the hotel in Mobile where they spent their honeymoon.

■ **Judah Zeigler**, the mayor of Leonia, N.J., said the town is replacing new "Do Not Enter" signs with more "business friendly" signs that warn nonresident drivers not to use its side streets as rush-hour shortcuts to the George Washington Bridge into New York City.

■ **Gavin Haynes**, 38, accused of fleeing a state trooper on Interstate 70 in a pursuit that reached speeds of 150 mph before a crash and his arrest as he hid in a barn near Springfield, Ohio, pleaded innocent to fleeing, aggravated vehicular assault and other counts, prosecutors said.

■ **Ernest Ervin**, 48, of Memphis, who has 54 previous felony and misdemeanor convictions for offenses ranging from assaults to driving offenses, is facing up to six years in prison after being found guilty of stealing from \$10 to \$15 in change from a car.

■ **Jessica Dutch**, 40, of Springfield, Mo., was charged with child endangerment for making her reluctant 14-year-old daughter drive to prepare for taking her learner's permit test, resulting in a crash that injured five people, state police said.

**WEATHER**

**LITTLE ROCK** Today A chance of showers. High 52, light variable winds.



Tonight Mostly cloudy and cold. Low 39.

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## Meddling probe indicts 13 Russians



AP/JACQUELYN MARTIN

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said Friday in Washington that the defendants "took extraordinary steps to make it appear that they were ordinary American political activists."

### Charges say scheme was to lift Trump, sow havoc

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DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF  
FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The special counsel investigating Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election charged 13 Russian citizens and three Russian organizations Friday with trying to disrupt the U.S. political process, including efforts designed to boost the candidacy of Donald Trump and hurt that of his opponent, Hillary Clinton.

The indictment represents the first charges by the special counsel, Robert Mueller, for meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

In a 37-page indictment filed in U.S. District Court, Mueller said the 13 individuals have conspired since 2014 to violate laws that prohibit foreigners from spending money to influence federal elections in the United States.

The indictment charges that the foreigners posed as U.S. citizens, stole identities and otherwise engaged in fraud and deceit to influence the U.S. political process, including the 2016 presidential race.



Mueller was unlikely to be immediately arrested, they are now wanted by the U.S. government, which will make it hard for them to travel or do business internationally. All were charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States, three with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud and five with aggravated identity theft.

Trump emphasized in a tweet and a statement that the indictments accused neither him nor his campaign of wrongdoing, and said the partisan rancor that dominates politics made room

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## FBI did not act on tip in Florida

Warning on school-shooting suspect was never passed on

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DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF  
FROM WIRE REPORTS

The FBI failed to act on a tip in January from a person close to suspect Nikolas Cruz warning that he owned a gun and might carry out a school shooting, the bureau acknowledged Friday, an admission that prompted Gov. Rick Scott of Florida to call for the bureau's director to resign.

The bureau, which was already under considerable political pressure because of

SOME STATES use 'red flag laws' to seize guns from people who are deemed threats. Page 7A.

its investigation into President Donald Trump, faced calls for even more scrutiny after the massacre at the high school in Parkland, Fla.

Scott said that Christopher Wray, director of the FBI, should step down and that the bureau's failure to act on the tip about Cruz was "unacceptable."

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People embrace Friday at a memorial for the victims of the school shooting Wednesday in Parkland, Fla. A Jan. 5 tip to the FBI about the suspect was not forwarded to the Miami field office, officials said.

## State's schools size up security; 9 report threats

GINNY MONK  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Some Arkansas school districts are re-evaluating safety procedures after a shooting that left 17 people dead Wednesday at a high school in Parkland, Fla.

At least nine Arkansas schools have investigated threats of violence over the

LIST OF nine schools in state that have reported threats. Page 7A.

course of two days in what one expert called "copycat threats." The investigations have led to at least seven arrests, most of which were of minors. The Rogers School District canceled a pep rally

Friday after receiving a vague threat. Other school districts that have reported threats are North Little Rock, Fayetteville, Berryville, Hackett, Timbo, Star City, Mammoth Spring and Gurdon.

Copycat threats also prompted school closings in Gilchrist County, Fla., and Nutley, N.J.; temporary lock-

downs in Onslow County, N.C., and Avon, Conn.; and an investigation at a middle school outside Atlanta.

The incidents come on the heels of the shooting Wednesday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, north of Miami. Police have charged Nikolas Cruz,

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## Can't sue state over dicamba, firm told

Judge dismisses Monsanto's case

STEPHEN STEED  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A circuit judge on Friday dismissed a lawsuit filed by Monsanto against the state Plant Board for decisions that have kept the company's dicamba herbicide out of the Arkansas market.

Pulaski County Circuit Judge Chris Piazza said the Arkansas Supreme Court was clear in its ruling last month that the state cannot be made a defendant in its own courts but added, "It's obvious Arkansas is going to have to come up with a constitutional amendment" allowing lawsuits against the state in some circumstances.

The board, a division of the Arkansas Agriculture Department, approved a regulation prohibiting the spraying of dicamba from April 16-Oct. 31, effectively

See DICAMBA, Page 3A

## Governor asked to call extra session on 2 topics

MICHAEL R. WICKLINE  
AND JOHN MORITZ  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas' House and Senate leaders on Friday asked Gov. Asa Hutchinson to call a special legislative session to take place after the ongoing fiscal session adjourns to consider bills on regulating pharmacy benefit managers and amending the law on open containers of alcoholic beverages in vehicles.

House Speaker Jeremy Gillam, R-Judsonia, and Senate President Pro Tempore Jonathan Dismang, R-Searcy, made their requests in separate but identical letters to the Republican governor on the fifth day of this year's fiscal session. The Legislature didn't meet Friday; it returns to business Tuesday.

Fiscal sessions are held to consider only appropriation bills; special votes are needed to consider other legislation in a fiscal session.

Gillam and Dismang said they are aiming to wrap up the fiscal session that started Monday by mid-March or earlier if possible.

Hutchinson will review the legislative leaders' letters this weekend and make a decision next week, said the governor's spokesman, J.R. Davis.

In their letters, Gillam and Dismang said, "[T]here are several policy-related issues that need to be addressed prior to the meeting of the 92nd General Assembly in 2019.

However, it is our de-

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## Support for jailed separatists



Demonstrators fill Sant Jaume square in Barcelona, Spain, on Friday in support of jailed Catalonia separatist activists, including Jordi Sanchez, Jordi Cuixart and former regional Vice President Oriol Junqueras. All face possible sedition charges, and Junqueras is under investigation on charges of rebellion and embezzlement. The protesters' signs read: "Freedom for the political prisoners."

AP/MANU FERNANDEZ